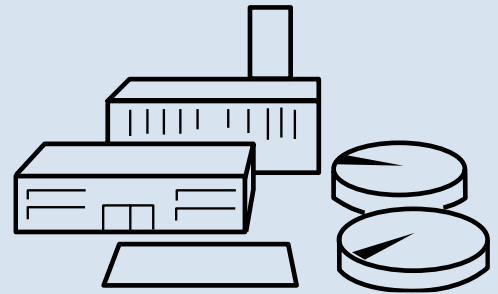


Treatment



What We Do

The Wastewater Treatment Division operates two regional wastewater treatment plants. The West Point plant in northwest Seattle serves Seattle, north King County and parts of south Snohomish County. The South plant in Renton serves south and east King County, parts of south Snohomish County, and a part of northeast Pierce County.

The WTD also runs a small treatment plant on Vashon Island and two plants that treat a combination of stormwater and wastewater during major storms: Alki in West Seattle and Carkeek in northwest Seattle.

The combination of secondary and primary treatment at the plants removes up to 95 percent of pollutants from the wastewater before it is disinfected, dechlorinated and discharged into Puget Sound.

The utility operates and maintains facilities for conveying and treating wastewater 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Its complex systems need a highly trained, knowledgeable staff to ensure the most efficient operation and high-quality effluent and byproducts.

In 2001, the division's South plant earned a Peak Performance Gold Award from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. Gold Awards are presented to wastewater facilities that meet all permit limits during a calendar year.



A lab specialist at King County's South Treatment Plant in Renton tests a sample of treated wastewater.



What We've Done

SITING NEW BRIGHTWATER PLANT

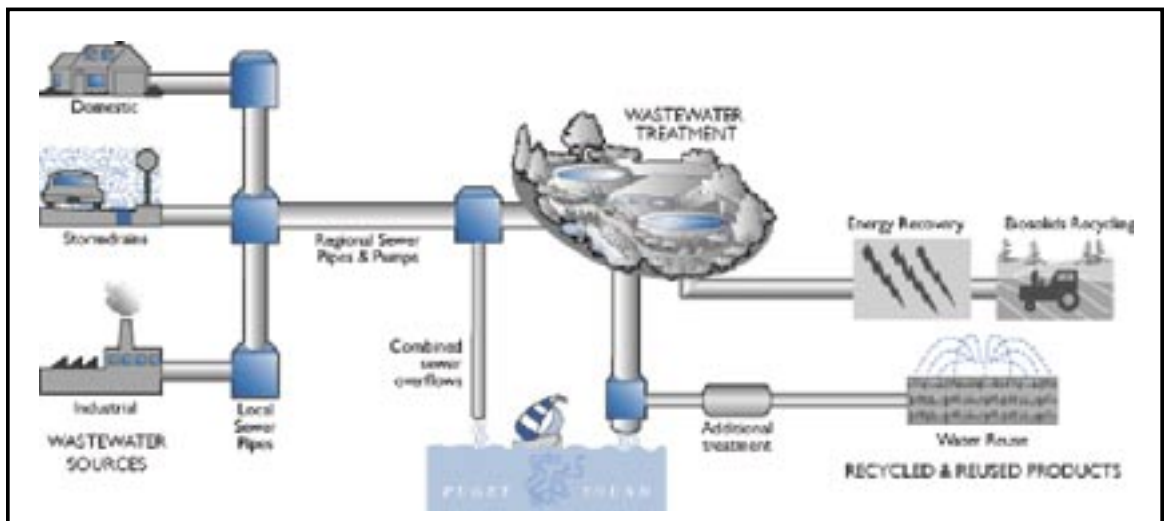
To meet the needs of our region's growing population, the WTD began a process in 2000 to site wastewater treatment facilities serving north King County and south Snohomish County.

According to the Regional Wastewater Services Plan, the utility must provide 36 million gallons per day of additional wastewater treatment capacity by 2010 in the northern part of the service area. More than 60 percent of the wastewater treated at the new plant, called Brightwater, will come from Snohomish County.

adopted the plant sites and outfall zones along with a set of criteria to help further narrow the list of possible sites.

Developing those six candidate systems enabled the division to compare them consistently and fairly, especially related to cost and potential impacts.

Diagram shows the wastewater treatment process



200 million
gallons of
wastewater
treated daily

24/7

In 2000, the division worked with community members and leaders to draft criteria for selecting a plant site and identifying land areas to consider.

In 2001, King County identified six alternative treatment plant sites and eight alternative outfall zones in Puget Sound for further consideration. And in May, the King County Council

After consulting with elected officials in Snohomish and King counties, the King County Executive, in September 2001, narrowed the list to two candidate systems: the Unocal site in Edmonds and the Route 9 site north of Woodinville.

In May 2002, King County launched a formal environmental review process

called “scoping.” During the month that followed, people, cities, organizations and businesses were given opportunities to say what they think about the alternatives, impacts and mitigation measures that should be evaluated in an environmental impact statement, or EIS.

After the close of scoping, the county prepared the draft EIS, which includes evaluation of project alternatives. It provides information about the probable significant adverse environ-

mental impacts and potential mitigation measures for the project.

In August 2002, the King County Executive announced that three system alternatives—one for the Unocal site and two for the Route 9 site—would be studied in the EIS. One of the Route 9 alternatives is the preferred alternative for this project.

The draft EIS was issued in November 2002, followed by a public comment period.



The South Treatment Plant in Renton treats wastewater from homes, businesses and schools in east and south King County and parts of Snohomish and Pierce counties.



King County's two regional plants provide secondary treatment to an average 200 million gallons of wastewater every day.



The West Point Treatment Plant in Seattle serves residents and workers in Seattle, north King County and south Snohomish County.

What's Ahead

Deciding on Brightwater

The King County Executive is scheduled to make his final decision on the project after the final EIS is released in mid-2003.

The new facilities will be designed to blend with the community and minimize impacts.

Operating Small Treatment Plants

Built in the 1950s, the independent Vashon Island Treatment Plant had struggled in recent years with permit violations under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. And when costs swelled for improving wastewater treatment on the island, King County was asked to assume responsibility beginning in 1999.

Since 1999, the WTD has made interim improvements to the operation of the plant. And it began planning a significant plant upgrade, including additional secondary treatment facilities, for completion in 2005.

In 2002, the City of Carnation approved an agreement with King County for the county to design, build and run a small wastewater treatment plant to serve the growing city. Completion of the plant is scheduled for 2007.